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" (b) The Government have referred the dispute relating to the retrenchment of the workers for adjudication."

Maintenance of muster roll for workers by the tile factories in Feroke, South Malabar.

* 292 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Commonwealth Tile Factory, Standard Tile and Clay Works, Malabar Tile Works and some other tile factories in Feroke, South Malabar, do not keep muster roll for workers according to section 25 (*d*) of the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947 as amended in 1953; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information. A report is being called for from local officers and suitable action will be taken, if necessary."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, in view of the fact that the Hon. Minister has referred the dismissal of 37 workers for adjudication, may I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact that the Tile and Clay Works at Feroke had violated the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, namely, sections 25 (*f*) and 25 (*g*) inasmuch as the management had dismissed 158 workers till the 17th May 1954 and whether any action has been taken on the matter or whether the dismissals during that period is one of the items pending before the court of adjudication? May I also know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that while a conciliation proceeding was pending before the Conciliation Officer with regard to the dismissal of these 158 workers, these 37 workers were dismissed, and if so, what action do the Government propose to take in respect of that matter? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, the present question relates to the retrenchment of 37 workers and I have stated that this matter is before the adjudication court."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" Sir, in view of the fact that there has been a *prima facie* case for referring the dispute for adjudication, will the Government consider the question of instructing the management to put these workers back on duty pending the result of the adjudication? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, Government have also information that a strike is going on. May I ask the hon. Member whether he would give an undertaking on behalf of the workers that the strike will be immediately called off? "

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Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" If the Government give an assurance here that all the retrenched workers including these 37 will be taken back, then we are prepared to withdraw the strike."

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I do not know the position relating to the retrenchment of the workers other than these 37. Relating to these 37, the matter is before the adjudication court. I think the Government could advise the management to reinstate the workers pending award by the adjudication court. I would also advise the workers to give up the strike."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, according to the assurance given by the Hon. Minister, we will persuade the workers to stop the strike. But I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister another point. There is a policy followed by the Government, namely, whenever the managements violate the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, Government are not taking any action in the matter. Will the Government go into the question and see whether the management in this case has not violated the provisions of the Act so many times in the past? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I may tell the hon. Member that the Government do not hesitate to take action whenever the management or the workers contravene the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act. Hon. Member is meeting me in my Chamber at 2-30 p.m. when the Commissioner of Labour will also be present. I may suggest to him to discuss the matter thoroughly with me then."

(The hon. Member Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar stood up in his place.)

Mr. SPEAKER :—" I will allow the hon. Member to put his question. But I may point out to him that the Hon. Minister is meeting the concerned Members in his Chamber to-day. They can discuss the question threadbare with the Hon. Minister then."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" We welcome the reference of the dismissal of the 37 workers to the adjudication court. I may say as the President of the Tile Workers' Union that the dismissal of these 37 workers was the consequence of the earlier dismissal of about 158 workers. Representations were made to Government in respect of the dismissal of the 158 workers. It is regrettable to note that the question of the dismissal of these 37 workers alone has been referred for adjudication and not the question of dismissal of the 158 workers also which caused all the trouble. This is my submission. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to consider this matter? If he can consider that, then we can contact Feroke by phone and inform the result to the Hon. Minister by 4-30 p.m. to-morrow."

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would invite the hon. Member to my Chamber at 2-30 p.m. to-day. We shall discuss the whole matter then."